

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 6, 1901, with transcript, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. GRAND HOTEL, BEAU RIVAGE, Geneve. 6th, June 1901. My dear Alec:

It was so nice to hear from you again yesterday, and feel that you were not displeased with me for remaining. The letter also arrived when for the first time I could bear to look forward to leaving Mamma. The day before we were down in the very depths, no hope any where. To remain seemed impossible, and every other place equally impossible, no teachers, no nothing and it was so hot and we so tired discouraged and disheartened. Mamma white and utterly without hope any where now or in future for Grace could bring no help and add terribly to the burden with all her family. But yesterday came hope, a singing teacher found, and good rooms forthcoming, and so many lovely drives discovered that everything seemed suddenly clear where the day previous had been only almost impenetrable darkness. Rooms and teacher come dear, that is now the trouble, but there seems nothing else to be done. We have been in every pension and hotel that promised anything and interviewed all the tourist agencies, until we are tired to death. But the teacher is engaged, and the question lies between two hotels. Both have advantages the other has not, but this has the greatest I think in that the people are pleasant and look honest, while in the other they appear neither. On the other hand their charges are three dollars a day less, and their rooms bigger. We may try again tomorrow. On Saturday we are going to Zermatt for Sunday, and return Monday and I want to sail on Saturday the 15th, I can't leave before anyway because neither Daisy nor I 2 were in condition to appear at Atlantic City. You would have been as disgusted with us as with Uncle David's Ralf, for we only had thick things for Baddeck, and fine dresses for London. Of course we will go wherever seems best for your fox goose and bag of oats, but I am in great hopes that you can convey them all safely to Baddeck. America seems twice as hopeless as Switzerland, and that is saying

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— mountains! We shall have to do whatever the doctor thinks best for Elsie, but I hope he will say she is best off in the comforts and coolness of Baddeck. The danger of a repetition of the experience of this spring will be greatest in September, but forewarned is forearmed and in October she could safely travel home. Of course too we must think of your work, but you said you could do the report writing in Baddeck, and I cannot believe that you can as easily work in a summer hotel with children racing around and dancing nightly. But all this “will arrange itself”. Once I can get Mamma definitely settled all my thoughts will turn to you, and I shall be impatient to see you all. If you had been with us you would realize how I could not bear the idea of leaving Mamma before. She actually came as near to a good down right cry as ever I saw her. I must confess I made matters worse one day by completely breaking down myself, but that was on the very hot day when I was not allowed to go house hunting, as Mamma thought I was very tired as I certainly was.

Did I tell you how nice Mr. Pernod was in Lucerne and Berne and in trying to get a singing teacher. He finally sent me a letter by telegraph on the subject, a regular letter that would have filled two or three sheets of letter paper. Fortunately telegraphing is 3 cheap here. We did not take his teacher because she could not come on approbation and we did not like to engage her without seeing her.

Well goodnight, it is late. The lake is lovely from our windows, the street lamps along the further bank stretching out in the darkness are like a necklace of diamonds reflected in the water. There are no other lights to break the illusion.

I love you and am ever yours,